



**INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH
THE NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
NATIONAL CENTERS FOR COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE**

Agreement No. IAA 13-340

- A. This Annex 001 to the Umbrella Memorandum of Agreement (Agreement) MOA-2013-038/8699, is entered into between the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) and the State of Washington, Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- B. The purpose of this Annex is to establish the conditions under which NCCOS shall provide analytical capacity and technical support for marine spatial planning to DNR, as detailed in the attached Statement of Work (SOW), and to define how funds will be transferred to cover the costs involved with these services.

Attachment A

STATEMENT OF WORK

I. Background

Marine spatial planning (MSP) is a planning process that enables integrated, forward looking, and consistent decision making on the human uses of the oceans and coasts. It can improve marine resource management by planning for human uses in locations that reduce conflict, increase certainty, and allow us to balance and maximize the social, economic, and ecological benefits we receive from ocean resources.

In March 2010, the Washington state legislature enacted a marine spatial planning law to address resource use conflicts in Washington waters. In 2011, a report to the legislature and a workshop on human use data provided guidance for the marine spatial planning process. The report outlines a set of recommendations for the state to effectively undertake marine spatial planning and this work plan will support some of these recommendations, such as: federal integration, regional coordination, developing mechanisms to integrate scientific and technical expertise, developing data standards, and accessing and sharing spatial data.

In 2012 the Governor amended the law to focus funding on mapping and ecosystem assessments for Washington's Pacific Coast and the legislature provided \$2.1 million in funds to begin marine spatial planning off Washington's coast. The funds are appropriated through the Washington Department of Natural Resources Marine Resources Stewardship Account with coordination among the State Ocean Caucus, the four coastal treaty tribes, four coastal Marine Resource Committees and the newly formed stakeholder body, the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council.

The Biogeography Branch has vast experience compiling and analyzing geospatial data needed for marine resource management and coastal planning; providing scientific and technical assistance to states; managing large Federal/State/Academic seafloor mapping projects; and developing species distribution and benthic habitat mapping products. The Branch has explicit expertise for finding, accessing and integrating ecological datasets; identifying priority data gaps; deriving maps from existing data; and, developing innovative technological approaches for sharing maps and spatial data to a wide audience. The Branch has successfully completed work similar to what is described in this statement of work throughout many U.S. coastal states, including Oregon, Connecticut and New York.

II. Purpose

This statement of work (SOW) describes technical tasks to be completed by the Biogeography Branch for Washington's Departments of Natural Resources (DNR). The tasks described in this SOW will provide scientific and technical support for marine spatial planning in waters off of Washington.

III. Scope of Work

The NOAA Biogeography Branch will 1) provide scientific and technical assistance to acquire, standardize, and evaluate spatial data needed to support marine spatial planning, 2) and develop a seafloor mapping strategy for offshore waters. The scope of work will focus on marine waters off Washington's Pacific Coast.

IV. Technical Specifications

NOAA will provide experienced personnel to perform duties which include, but are not limited to the following two tasks listed in sections A and B. Each task is organized by discrete subtasks with estimated planned timelines and deliverables. A timeline and budget follows the description of tasks. In addition to the work associated with each of the individual tasks, the Branch will coordinate tasks to ensure deliverables are consistent and timed, when possible, to support with regional/local planning activities.

A. Support for Dataset Discovery and Evaluation

Washington is in the process of compiling datasets and gathering information on how to use datasets for marine spatial planning. The Biogeography Branch will support Washington's efforts by sharing knowledge of datasets and analysis used by other spatial planners, and conduct research to evaluate key datasets.

1. Scientific and Technical Assistance

The Biogeography Branch will share experiences related to marine spatial planning activities in other states and in other regions, and share knowledge of ecological data sets, analytical techniques, and decision support tools with state planners and their partners. The Branch will inform DNR staff via email and telephone calls of potentially useful datasets to use in their own planning and when possible download and share datasets.

A trip to Seattle for up to two Branch employees and teleconferences are planned to meet with various state planners and groups assisting state planners, including:

- i. Washington Sea Grant to support a scientific advisory team and conducting some work related to scientific input/evaluation of data and identifying data gaps, and
- ii. Various planning and technical teams to assist development of a planning tool.

Research to discover and assess the utility of datasets for planning, and preparation of information will be necessary before meetings and teleconferences.

Delivery of assistance: May - June 2013

Travel: Planned for May 2013

2. Dataset Evaluation

The Branch will research and evaluate no more than 10 key physical or biological datasets collected in marine waters and identified by DNR. Key datasets must be identified by DNR before May 1, 2013. The evaluation will include lists of sources, how the datasets have been used by other marine spatial planners, potential alternatives, and advantages and

disadvantages of using the particular dataset to meet state goals. This information will be provided in a brief technical report.

Requirement: Identification of key datasets by DNR before May 1, 2013

Delivery of technical report: May 2013

B. Support for a Benthic Habitat Mapping Strategy

The Biogeography Branch will support DNR by working on the initial phase of strategy to prioritize benthic habitat mapping off of Washington's Pacific Coast. A full spatial prioritization which includes steps to inventory datasets, identify needs for planning, and delineation of priority mapping areas is unfeasible in the time between now and the end of June 2013 (the deadline for deliverables associated with this SOW). Consequently, the Branch will focus on developing the initial phase of a full spatial prioritization and create a foundation for future work. The initial phase will develop a thematic geospatial data viewer and a blueprint for subsequent phases of a spatial prioritization.

1. Geospatial Data Viewer

The Biogeography Branch will develop a dedicated data viewer to share numerous geospatial data layers necessary to prioritize benthic mapping by planners. The viewer will allow planners at DNR and their associates to visualize data organized into thematic categories and allow users to easily evaluate the extent, type, and quality of known data sources.

A data viewer is a critical initial stage in developing a mapping strategy, because data has been collected and products produced by disparate groups to address a variety of applications. Coalescing that information into a common spatial framework organized thematically is an important step in being able to evaluate the present state of knowledge. From this exercise, we can begin to identify critical gaps in coverage, but also begin to assess the quality of coverage relevant to needs.

Populating the viewer with datasets will require close consultation with groups and individuals with knowledge of existing datasets, or those who may have compiled inventories or geodatabases of known sources. A list of data sources will be identified through interviews with researchers in academia, industry, Non-Governmental, and State and federal agencies, and web discovery. Interviews will be conducted in person or by phone calls or email exchange. Data will be compiled into a standard spatial framework for consistency. GIS software will be used to display and communicate spatial data and descriptive information. Note: the Biogeography Branch will not be responsible for creating metadata for other's data.

It is expected that DNR will identify a technical mapping expert or group of experts by May 2013 who is (are) familiar with regional and Washington datasets to facilitate benthic data discovery. Every effort will be made to share data and lessons-learned with portal development projects stood up by DNR.

Delivery of viewer: June 2013

Travel: Planned for May 2013

2. Blueprint for Future Phases of Spatial Prioritization

The Biogeography Branch will develop a roadmap that describes and identifies key individuals and agencies, steps, their timelines, and expected outcomes necessary to conduct a spatial prioritization. The process could include planning a regional workshop, a spatial prioritization information query, and identification of steps to process and analyze data, implementation of technical/management oversight groups, an outreach strategy, and efforts to identify and improve leveraged assets/resources. This blueprint will provide a key strategic planning document to expedite the next phase of the effort so that progress can quickly transition towards well planned, coordinated, and prioritized activities. The blueprint will be delivered to DNR at the end of this contract.

Delivery of blueprint: June 2013

V. Period of Performance

The period of performance for this work shall extend from April 15, 2013 to June 30, 2013.

VI. Project Timeline

The Biogeography Branch will work on the various tasks identified in “Technical Specifications” (Section IV) according to the schedule outlined below. Project coordination will occur on an ongoing basis for the duration of the project.